

Ahoy there!

My name is Sharon Litcofsky, and I am the Port Captain and Relief Captain of the sailing ship *Kalmar Nyckel*. The *Kalmar Nyckel* is a recreation of a 17th century square-rigged ship which is maintained and sailed mainly by a volunteer crew. We have over 300 active volunteers who support the ship and Foundation, complimenting the four ship's staff, and four office staff. The crew comes from all walks of life, bringing various skills and experiences to the organization.

We train volunteers to become sailing crew twice during the year. One class is in Wilmington, DE in the winter for 11 all-day Saturdays, and the other class is in the summer for 2 ½ weeks (class size limited, location TBD). The crew training class is required for all volunteers who are interested in volunteering as sailing crew. Once trained, volunteers may sail as crew for week long "voyages" to other ports, or day sails in Delaware, as their schedule allows. There is a small fee for materials and for a drug test, required by the Coast Guard. Sailing crew must maintain active crew status each year by putting in 40 hours of volunteer time each year, and by taking a 3 hour crew refresher class before sailing each year. This is not difficult to do over the course of a year, even for out-of-state crew! Sailing crew must be at least 18 yr. old, or 14-17 with a parent/guardian. There is no upper age limit. All crew must be physically able to safely perform all skills needed to sail the ship, and keep our guests safe, including climbing vertical ladders, and hauling lines. Expect to spend time studying at home, and practicing knot tying regularly (daily!) as well as practice time on board the ship. Homework assignments include reading the manual, practicing knots and belays on the ship, worksheets and other hands-on studying on the ship. Please Register for the next winter class by going to our web site www.kalmarnyckel.org and click on "Join the Volunteer Crew" link which is at the top of the home page. There you will find directions for what to do! If you're interested in the summer class, please e-mail me directly.

Maintenance is an important component of volunteer work needed for a wooden ship. This work occurs mainly from fall through spring at our shipyard in Wilmington, DE, and is required for those taking the crew training class. Volunteers helping with maintenance come on both weekend and weekdays as their schedules allow. There is always work to do! To become involved in maintenance, e-mail me during the maintenance season (November-April). No experience necessary, we'll teach you everything you need to know! Getting a head start on your volunteer hours before the class starts is a GREAT way to learn about what you're getting into, meet some people and learn your way around, and start on your 40 hour requirement before the formal class begins. If you wish to volunteer, but are unable to take our crew training class, or are not interested in being a sailor, we have lots of jobs helping with ship maintenance and shipyard work.

DATES FOR WINTER CLASS, 2011: Jan 8, 15, 22, Feb 5, 12, 19, March 5, 12, 26, April 2.

Location: Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard, Wilmington, DE (check our web site for directions)

Dates of Classes: **Jan 8, 15, 22, Feb 5, 12, 19, March 5, 12, 26, April 2** u/w training sail TBD

Time: 9am-4pm Come early on the first day! Registration begins at 8:30am

Register: On our web site, click on "Become a Member" and fill out the form, click on "Register for Jan '2011 Crew Class"

Cost: \$40 materials fee (payable cash, check, charge); There is also a one-time fee of \$35 for a initial drug test, as require by the Coast Guard.

Lunch: Provided for \$3 (vegetarian option available), sodas 50 cents (or bring a water bottle)

Bring: Pencil/pen, picture ID, 3 page Volunteer Application (filled out already! Downloaded from website www.kalmarnyckel.org and click on "Join the Volunteer Crew", staple together, etc.).

Absences: Not recommended, as new material comes each week. More than 2 absences are not permitted.

Wear: Warm clothes-layers, sturdy shoes, dress for precipitation if needed (you may haul lines, participate in team work activities, get dirty, walk thru rain/mud, etc.). We have class rain or shine, or cold!

What else: You will have fun, meet new people, learn something new, and expand your horizons!

Warning: Some people find tall ship sailing addictive! Plan accordingly; have your entire family join the class! Selling your house to live onboard and quitting your job-optional!

Questions?: E-mail me! captainsharon@kalmarnyckel.org

DATES FOR SUMMER CLASS 2011:

Location: TBD

Dates: TBD

Times: Weekdays, Weeknights and Weekends

Cost: \$50, cost includes tee-shirt to be worn onboard, plus \$35 for drug test, and a suggested donation to cover your food.

Sign-ups for the summer class work like this. I collect e-mails of those interested in the summer class, so e-mail me if you're interested (this is NOT a sign-up!). Once our schedule is set for the 2011 sailing season, we'll select dates and location for the summer class. Then those dates are sent to people interested, and THEN I begin taking sign-ups for the class, by e-mail. The class typically fills rather quickly, so be watching for an e-mail with summer dates sometime in February.

For those of you who are experienced square-rig sailors (and there are a few of you out there), we have an independent study crew training opportunity available. This program is designed for volunteers who are able to live aboard as trainees, then crew for several months during the sailing season. If this program fits you, please request an application and prepare a resume of your education and experience/sailing time on other ships. (Space limited)

There are also opportunities for volunteers to help in the office, with the visitors center, cooking, lawn work, carpentry, and as educators for school groups, so if sailing crew or maintenance is not your thing, but you'd like to become involved, we'll try to fit your skills/interest with a job that needs doing! We look forward to having you join our Foundation and having you work with the ship and the crew. No experience is necessary; we'll teach you everything you need to know.

Hope to see you sailing!

Capt. Sharon Litcofsky

Port Captain/Relief Captain

Kalmar Nyckel

E-mail: captainsharon@kalmarnyckel.org, Foundation Office Phone # 302-429-7447

Preferred method of contacting me is e-mail, as I'm in and out of the office, on and off the ship!